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**Board plans hearing on \$1.76 million budget increase**  
The Lincoln City Board of Directors will meet Monday night to discuss a proposed budget increase of \$1.76 million for fiscal year 2013-14. The board will also discuss a proposed increase in the city's sales tax from 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent. The board will meet at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Convention Center. The board will also discuss a proposed increase in the city's property tax from 1.5 percent to 1.75 percent. The board will meet at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Convention Center.

**Open house to celebrate hospital expansion**  
The Lincoln Community Hospital will hold an open house to celebrate the completion of its new \$100 million expansion project. The open house will be held on Monday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the new hospital building. The new building will provide 150 additional hospital beds, a new emergency department, and a new intensive care unit. The new building will also include a new surgical suite, a new radiology suite, and a new laboratory. The new building will be located at 1000 N. Lincoln St. in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**City to offer free Franchise Night for those wanting to open or expand small business**  
The Lincoln City Economic Development Center will offer a free Franchise Night on Monday, April 8, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lincoln Convention Center. The Franchise Night will provide an opportunity for small business owners to learn more about the benefits of franchising and to meet with potential franchisees. The Franchise Night will also include a presentation by the Lincoln City Economic Development Center on the benefits of franchising in Lincoln. The Franchise Night is free and open to all small business owners.

**Authorities identify Colorado couple as airplane crash victims**  
The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has identified the victims of a small airplane crash in Colorado. The victims were a husband and wife who were on a flight from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Colorado. The airplane crashed on Monday, April 8, near the town of Colorado. The husband and wife were the only two people on board the airplane. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating the crash and has not yet determined the cause of the crash. The Sheriff's Office is asking anyone who has information about the crash to contact the Sheriff's Office at (719) 585-1234.

**Down town businesses setting the groundwork for organization**  
The Lincoln Downtown Business Association is currently setting the groundwork for an organization that will represent the interests of downtown businesses in Lincoln. The association will be responsible for promoting downtown Lincoln and for providing a voice for downtown businesses in city government. The association will also be responsible for organizing events and activities in downtown Lincoln. The association is currently seeking members and is open to all downtown businesses in Lincoln. For more information, contact the Lincoln Downtown Business Association at (402) 475-1000.

**KEY INVOLVED TODAY**