

Mark Roper, a funeral director for Roper and Sons, shows one of many caskets the mortuary offers. Roper said the business, established at the turn of the century, had entered its fourth generation of family ownership.

## To be buried or to burn Time to sort out options

**By Anne Stever** Senior Reporter

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rector at Roper and Sons Mortuary, 4300 O St., said the mortuary would "make the removal" of the body. After returning to the mortuary, the mortuary waits for instructions from the family.

Decisions whether or not to embalm must be made within 24 hours, McQuiston said. The Nebraska Department of Health requires burial within one day if the family chooses direct burial.

The direct-burial option requires mation is also a viable option. But nearly immediate interment after death. The body is sanitized, dressed and placed in a casket. But when the family has relatives and friends

coming from out of town for a service, McQuiston said embalming before burial is the best option.

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If the family is planning a service before burial, the morticians prefer to begin embalming soon because the blood will begin to coagulate shortly after death, McQuiston said.

The health department requires that the embalming fluid contain at least 5 percent formaldehyde gas. But before the fluid can be injected, all bodily orifices must be plugged with absorbant cotton and the body bathed with a strong

See FUNERAL on 10

