



## And the games go on...

Our “wonderful” Unicameral is in session again. Which means that my Omaha Governor, with the help of numerous “rural” senators to vote with the urban majority, will effectively steal the wool (dollars) from rural Nebraska. They will then gather all of their ill-gotten gains in Lincoln, claim it as their money and divide it amongst their friends along the populated corridor up I-80 from Lincoln to Omaha.

Kind of like the kings in their castles did to the serfs in medieval Europe. Eventually that became unacceptable in civilized parts of the world, but not in Nebraska. Yet our king, Pete Ricketts (hereafter known in these writings as Kingpete) and his pawns of the Unicameral (hereafter known as pu) -- instead of having knights of the roundtable, we have pawns of the butchering table for us sheep of rural Nebraska. Aspiring to be knightly while stealing from the poor to give to the rich appears to be quite unseemly.

How long will rural Nebraskans allow Kingpete and his pawns to steal from us as they fund their excesses? We, at Fair Nebraska, say we have gone too far in punishing our schools and our taxpayers in rural Nebraska. Funding our schools is imperative if we do so in an equitable manner. It is time to start over with an open discussion on how to adequately fund our schools as we realize that things have changed in the last 600 years in the world, or the last 200 years in this

country.

Disappointedly, some of our ag organizations, (such as Farm Bureau) have exhibited a worrisome SEE **RICHTERS** 8A

### **RICHTERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4A

weakening of the knees as they plead for Kingpete to throw us a bone to help him pass legislation to lower income tax rates. Hopefully the Nebraska Farm Bureau can explain its actions to its members and to its coalition partners at United Nebraska.

Negotiations with Kingpete and his cohorts would mean that ag taxpayers will accept being his serfs for five days a week instead of seven days a week. It does nothing for our schools so is it OK to throw our rural schools under the bus? It is NOT OK in the minds of Fair Nebraska. We refuse to get down on our knees to show fealty and love for Kingpete when, either through ignorance or obstinance, he has shown he does not care about rural Nebraska.

To Kingpete and his pawns, Fair Nebraska is NOT going away! First of

all, Fair Nebraskans will do anything and everything in an attempt to get a public debate with you or anyone you choose to represent you on the issue of funding public schools fairly and adequately. If you and your pawns force us to file suit in the Supreme Court, the responsibility for such action will fall on you. The irony is that we will have to pay for our legal representation while our taxes will be paying your legal costs.

I realize this is a trivial issue to you and most of the Unicameral, but I challenge you to accept that a public discussion is needed, and you should come down from your castle and have a debate with us. Have a good day, Governor.

Oh, and a special thanks to Stephen Postier and the York Rotary Club for the food and the opportunity to have a discussion about these issues with their members. Fair Nebraska does not have all of the answers, but we love these types of interactions in the search for answers. Very enjoyable and thanks again.

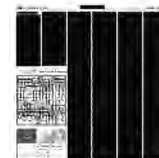
### COMMENTARY I (NOT) JUST FOR FARMERS



### Dennis Richters

Charter member  
of Fair Nebraska  
402 641-5074

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018  
 Frequency: WEEKLY  
 Circulation: 38,000  
 Clip Size: 72.40 sq. inches  
 Ad Rate: \$42.53  
 Page/Section: N 0020



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## Community Calendar THIS WEEKEND

- Brock's Boutique, offering free clothes and kids' books, open 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at Havelock Christian Church, 66th & Colfax Ave. Everyone welcome. Info.: call (402) 430-7569. Any financial donations to be given to The Orchard, 1311 M St. Clothing donations also welcome; garage sale items may be dropped off at front of church under the awning. Pick-up service available; call Debbie, (402) 430-7569.
- Soul Food meals 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Quinn Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1225 S. Ninth St. Chicken, ham, greens, sweet potatoes and more, \$10. Meals also served 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday following 11 a.m. worship service.
- Music by The Time Burners 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Gratitude Café & Bakery, 1551 N. Cotner Blvd., featuring release of their album "The Girl Can Cook."
- Under way: "Peter and the Starcatcher" opened Thursday evening in McDonald Theatre on the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus, 51st & Huntington. Remaining performances Feb. 3 and Feb. 8 to 10 at 7:30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinee shows Feb. 4 and Feb. 11.
- Grace Lutheran Church youth to participate in Souper Bowl of Caring, on Super Bowl Sunday, collecting monetary donations for The Gathering Place and non-perishable food donations for the Lutheran Metro Food Pantry from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the church, 2225 Washington St.
- Grief group meets 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday in Roper & Sons Funeral Home Reception Facility, 4300 O St. This weekend: Guided Group, facilitated by Melissa Thorne, PLMHP. This group is for those who are grieving a death at any time in life. No cost to attend.
- Widowed Persons Service (WPS) Friendship Group meets 2 to 4 p.m. every Sunday at Calvert Recreation Center, 4500 Stockwell St. (Fall session takes effect Sept. 10.)
- Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society (LLCGS) offers free

assistance with genealogy and family history from 2-4 p.m. most Sundays at Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th St. For information on Sunday topics, see [www.llcgs.info](http://www.llcgs.info) or call Bob McQuistan, (402) 483-6158. Open to anyone interested in genealogy.

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### MONDAY

- Sunrise Toastmasters Club weekly

meeting begins at 6:30 a.m. Gianna's Java and Gelato, 2241 O St. For information, 402-416-4342.

- "Loss of a Loved One Drop-in Grief Group," meets every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m., and every Wednesday, 1:30-3 p.m., at The Harbor Coffeehouse, 1265 S. Cotner Blvd. Call (402) 486-8546 for confirmation of dates.
- Fallbrook Kiwanis Club meets noon to 1 p.m. at Concordia University location at 570 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 203. Bring your own lunch.
- Executive Club of Lincoln weekly noon luncheon at The Nebraska Club, 20th floor of U.S. Bank, 12th and M streets. Guest speaker: state Senator Jim Smith of Papillion discusses the Unicameral session.

### TUESDAY

- Lincoln Sunrise Kiwanis Club meeting 6:30 a.m. in the Flanagan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South St. Guest speaker John Baylor discusses Husker volleyball and On To College.
- Lincoln Rotary Club #14 weekly noon luncheon meeting schedule resumes at The Nebraska Club, 20th floor of US Bank, 12th and M streets. Program: World Fellowship & Community Service Committee International Projects Program.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, 3825 Wildbriar Lane, hosts fourth annual Pancakes for PCAN, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. A benefit to raise awareness and funds to support local families who have a child diagnosed with cancer.
- Capital City Kiwanis Club weekly dinner meeting 6 p.m. at the Cotner Center, 1540 N. Cotner Blvd.
- Free give-away 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at Calvary United Methodist Church, South 11th and Garfield streets. Free clothing (all sizes) and household items. No income eligibility requirements.
- Cosmopolitan International Club meets 6-7 p.m. at Panera Bread, 201 N. 66th St. Info.: call Julie Brezenski, (308) 850-8013.
- Madonna Adaptive Sports & Recreation Bowling Night for anyone with a disability 6 to 8 p.m. at Parkway Lanes, 2555 S. 48th St. \$5 to bowl, \$3 for shoe rental, call Rick Haith at (402) 413-3722 to register.
- Dance to the music of Skylark, 7 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday in February at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park, 3140 Sumner St.
- Lincoln Continentals men's a cappella chorus weekly rehearsal, 7 to 9 p.m. at Northeast United Church

of Christ Social Hall, 6200 Adams St. New singers, guests welcome.

- Lincoln Chorus weekly rehearsal, 7 to 9 p.m. at Vine Congregational UCC, 1800 Twin Ridge Rd.
- UNL Percussion Ensemble presents "Burn," a virtuosic display of percussive pyrotechnics inspired by fire, 7:30 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R streets. Tickets: general admission \$5; students/seniors \$3.

### WEDNESDAY

- Lincoln Sunrise Optimist Club breakfast meeting 7 a.m. at Perkins, 48th & O streets.
- Lincoln Gateway Sertoma Club breakfast meeting 7:30 a.m. at Tabitha, 48th and J streets.
- American Red Cross Bloodmobile visit 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UNL's East Campus College of Law, 40th and Holdrege. Make an appointment by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-733-2767.
- Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis Club weekly noon luncheon meeting at Golden Corral, 3940 N. 27th St.
- SouthPointe Kiwanis Club noon luncheon meeting at Stauffer's Café & Pie Shoppe, 5600 S. 48th St.
- Lincoln East Rotary Club noon luncheon meeting at Valentino's Grand Italian Buffet, 70th & Van Dorn.
- Community Conversation Series begins at 2 p.m. at Community Health Endowment, 250 N. 21st St. See article in this issue.
- South Gate United Methodist Church, 3500 Pioneers Blvd., hosts special worship service on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Come as you are from work and participate in a short, meaningful service with Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede. A midweek opportunity for a brief quiet time. All are welcome. More info: (402) 489-1641.

### THURSDAY

- Lincoln Northeast Sertoma Club breakfast meeting 7 a.m. in Hy-Vee Club Room, 5020 O St. Guest speaker: Dr. Charles Genrich, vice president for Clinic With a Heart.
- Lincoln Center Sertoma Club breakfast meeting 7 a.m. at The Cornhusker, a Marriott hotel, 333 S. 13th St.
- Yoga classes led by a certified yoga instructor 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at Trinity United Methodist Church, 7130 Kentwell Lane. Bring a mat. Free-will donation.
- Cornhusker Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon meeting 11:30 a.m. at The Venue Restaurant, South 70th & Pioneers Blvd. Info.: [www.cornhuskerkiwanis.org](http://www.cornhuskerkiwanis.org)

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- Lincoln Sunrise Kiwanis Club hosts its eighth annual soup supper and silent auction fundraising event from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 84th and Pioneers. Tickets (\$7) may be purchased at the door. Homemade chili and chicken noodle soup and a variety of desserts.

- Leadership coach and tech pioneer Ellen Petry Leanse visits Francie & Finch bookstore, 130 S. 13th St., from 6 to 7 p.m. to talk about her book and how to hack your way to a happier life. See added details in this issue. Book signing to follow.
- SMART (Self-Management and Recovery Training) meets at 6:30 p.m. at Parallels, 4706 S. 48th St. Free support group for people who have any addictive behavior.
- Community Action Partnership offering income tax help on Thursday evenings through mid-April. Appointments to be scheduled at the Community Action office, 210 O St. To make an appointment, call (402) 471-4515.
- Wachiska Audubon's monthly general meeting begins at 7 p.m., at Hardin Hall on UNL's East Campus. Pete Marra, a visiting ornithologist and conservation biologist, talks about his new book *Cat Wars*, telling the story of the threats free-ranging cats pose to biodiversity and public health throughout the world. Admission and parking free. (This talk takes the place of Wachiska Audubon's regular monthly meeting.) More info.: call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.
- "Jersey Boys" opens at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts Main Stage, 301 N. 12th St. Additional shows 7:30 p.m. Friday and next Saturday. Ticket info.: [liedcenter.org](http://liedcenter.org) or call (402) 472-4747.

### FRIDAY

- Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club weekly noon luncheon meeting on 20th floor of U.S. Bank, 13th and M streets. Guest speaker: James Blake (Kiwanis Member), science curriculum coordinator LPS. Topic: "A Guide To Science In LPS."
- Lincoln South Rotary Club weekly noon luncheon at The Venue Restaurant, 70th & Pioneers Blvd. Program: "Men with Dreams," by Brandon McWilliams and Chris Phipps.
- FirstTier Toastmasters Club meets noon to 1 p.m. at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 12th and M streets. For more information, visit

<http://5949.toastmastersclubs.org>  
 • 46th annual Nebraska Builders Home & Garden Show begins at 1 p.m. at Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock Ave. Show hours 1-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 11). See ad in this issue for details.  
 • Heartland Cancer Foundation raises money to help local cancer patients through its third annual Mardi Gras Casino Royale at Wilderness Ridge. Event kicks off with session from 7 to 10 p.m. featuring live jazz music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, casino gaming tables, cash bar, and silent auction. VIP after-party 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. features local band Thirty Second Hangover. More info.: visit [www.HeartlandCancerFoundation.org](http://www.HeartlandCancerFoundation.org) or call 402-261-9974.  
 • 32nd annual Chocolate Lover's Fantasy 7 to 10 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, 1040 P St. Tickets \$35 per person in advance at participating Haymarket businesses and at the door.

## ■ NEXT WEEKEND

• American Red Cross Bloodmobile visit 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Saturday at Genesis Health Clubs, 5300 Old Cheney Road. Make an appointment by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-733-2767.  
 • Downtown Lincoln Rotary Club #14 hosts brunch fundraising event next Saturday: Rise.Shine.Give. from 10 a.m. to noon at Nebraska Innovation Campus. To purchase tickets, visit [rotary14.org](http://rotary14.org).  
 • Waverly-Eagle School District 145 Band Soup Supper 4:30 to 8 p.m. next Saturday at Waverly High School, 13401 Amberley Road. 63rd annual band soup supper and concerts presented by the School District 145 Band Boosters, featuring 5th through 9th grade bands, middle school and high school jazz bands

and Varsity band. Chili or chicken noodle soup, relishes, desserts and beverages. Tickets at the door \$8 — 5th grade and older, \$5 — 4th grade and younger. All proceeds to support the District 145 Band program.  
 • Creamed chicken/homemade Bunzas dinner (your choice) 4:30 to 7 p.m. the second Saturday of each month, October through May, at Havelock Masonic Center, 4430 N. 70th St. Public welcome.  
 • Wachiska Audubon members' monthly field trip 1 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 11). Destination: Branched Oak Lake north of Lincoln, birding hike through both cedar and deciduous areas. Meet at Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area in the parking lot at the south end of the dam, north of W. Raymond and N.W. Crounse Roads. Prefer to caravan? Meet at 12:30 p.m. on the south side of the Capitol at 15th and H Streets across from the governor's mansion. Info.: call John Carlini at 402-475-7275.  
 • True Dance & Company will present "The Event", a premiere of award-winning regional and national competition team dances, 5 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 11) at Lincoln Southwest High School, featuring TDC's top graduating seniors McKaylee True, Sarah DeBoer, and Kiley Tomes of Lincoln, along with 84 talented dancers ages 5 & up, members of True Dance Company. See article in this issue.

## ■ COMING SOON

• English language volunteer tutor orientation, 1:30 or 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20 at Lincoln Literacy, Ninth and G streets. Tutors needed for English Language Learners and native speakers of English working on increasing their literacy skills. Register at [www.lincolnliteracy.org](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org) or contact Victoria Welles at [vvelles@lincolnliteracy.org](mailto:vvelles@lincolnliteracy.org) or 402-476-7323.



# Rotary Clubs hit supermarkets for Souper Bowl drive

JON LEU

JLEU@NONPAREILONLINE.COM

Council Bluffs' morning and noon Rotary Clubs are joining forces this weekend for the annual Rotary Souper Bowl Food Drive to help replenish the nine pantries that make up the Council Bluffs Food Pantry Association.

Rotarians were at five local supermarkets Friday evening and will also be on hand at those stores from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today.

Participating stores include Family Fare, 1801 Valley View Drive; Fareway, 310 McKenzie Ave.; Hy-Vee, 1745 Madison

Ave.; Hy-Vee, 2323 W. Broadway; and Super Saver, 1141 N. Broadway.

Local pantries that make up the Council Bluffs Pantry Association and will benefit from the Rotary weekend drive include MICA House, Phillips Cupboard, Care and Share, Our Savior Lutheran Church, South Side Christian Church, First

Baptist Church, Community of Christ Church, Trailblazer and the Salvation Army.

Teresa Hildreth, president of the Council Bluffs Pantry Association and the person who operates the First Baptist Church Food Pantry, said the

**ROTARY/See Page 2A**

## Rotary Clubs hit supermarkets for Souper Bowl drive

**ROTARY/From Page 1A**

association distributes about 150,000 pounds of food annually and last year served over 35,000 people. She said that her pantry serves an average of 700 people a month.

Hildreth said people using the services of the nine pantries that make up the Council Bluffs Pantry Association are allowed to visit one of the nine pantries every 30 days.

In addition to handing out flyers listing food items that are needed by the association's member pantries, Rotarians are collecting cash donations. Much of the food that is not donated to individual pantries is purchased from a pantry warehouse in Omaha.

Hildreth said pantries are able to purchase food for 16 cents per pound from the Omaha outlet. She noted that, given the cost at which the

association is able to purchase food, the pantry association is able to feed a family of four for a week with each \$10 donation.

Last year, representatives from Council Bluffs' two Rotary Clubs presented a check for \$3,661.24 — money donated during the 2017 Rotary Souper Bowl Food Drive — to the Council Bluffs Food Pantry Association. The cash donation was the largest to date from the annual food drive.



Staff photo/Joe Shearer

**Bonnie Crone donates money to the Council Bluffs Food Pantry Association at the West Broadway Hy-Vee.**