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# BEYOND CAREERS

Meet five baby boomers who aren't buying the concept of 'retirement'

By CHRISTINE LAUE // WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Throw out your preconceived notions about retirees. • For many, modern retirement is less about slowing down and more about gearing up. Less about reflecting on the past and more about shaping the future. It's about finding purpose and living the rest of life as fully as possible.



Mary S. Thompson after her appearance on TLC's "Hoarding: Buried Alive" in 2011. Today she calls herself a "reformed hoarder."

## Fun-seeker

**Mary S. Thompson:** At 76, she spends her retirement tackling taxes and her hoarding past — because, to her, that's fun

Thompson worked full time as an IRS taxpayer service representative from 1986 until retiring in 2007. Today, she volunteers as an ambassador at the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater; works part time in a tax office; owns and operates Hoarder's Paradise, a shop

she opened to sell her belongings after being featured on TLC's reality series, "Hoarding: Buried Alive." She also serves on the board of Downtown Omaha Inc. and is president of the Dahlman Neighborhood Association.

**On the timing of her retirement:** "A volunteer opportunity gave me more time to help the average American taxpayer for free, and it was time."

**Her post-retirement advice to her peers:** "Don't do anything unless it's fun." That same philosophy applies to her health. She was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2014, seven years into her retirement. After surgery, she de-

cided to forgo chemotherapy and treat the cancer holistically. "If a pity party was free, I still wouldn't have time to go, because it's not on my bucket list."

**On a typical day:** "A typical day for me is not standing still."

**On myths about retirement:** "I don't really think about these things. I am too busy doing only fun things."

**What's next:** "Every day is a new beginning. I check my planner to make sure I have it all covered and rarely turn down an opportunity to try something new that sounds like fun." Like participating in a senior citizen driving study. "That was a fun thing to do."



## Taxidermy specialist-turned-grandkids' taxi driver

**Jim Houston:** The 71-year-old sees retirement as an evolution, not a final destination

Houston was general manager of the St. Vincent de Paul Stores when he retired in 2007. A Creighton basketball season ticket holder, he previously owned Old Market properties, including a taxidermy business. Today, he's chauffeuring 11 grandkids in "Grandpa's purple bus" to and from school and other activities and watching them after school and some evenings.

**On the timing of his retirement:** "I retired to take care of our oldest grandson with a rare illness. I felt that it was important, that I could make a difference, and that it was the right thing to do. I really was not looking beyond this opportunity. But as time went on and more grandchildren came, I luckily had more opportunity to interact with these children. I ended up with more from them than they from me."

**On taking each grandchild on an out-of-state trip after second and eighth grades:** "My goal is to make a positive difference in each of their lives, reinforce values and rules of their parents and enjoy being around young, ever-changing kids."

**What's next:** "We must 'make things happen' — make a reason for grandkids to be with you, and to have an active social life. Visit capitols, museums, etc. I really believe that relationships, purposeful activities and forward thinking will make for an unbelievable increase in quality and quantity of life. My first reason to retire was easy to make. But as the kids grow older, the travels are fewer. I will have to make more choices for me to stay relevant."



**Mary Macchietto Bernier, left, with friends Patti Gregor and Anne Carroll on their trip to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.**

## Consultant and creative writer

**Mary Macchietto Bernier:** When going part time wasn't an option, she retired and created her own flexible gig

Bernier, 69, worked at the University of Nebraska Foundation from 2000 to 2015, retiring as a senior development director. Today, she's founder of Inspired Giving: Changing the World Through Philanthropy, a business that consults with individuals to fulfill their philanthropic missions. She also is operations director at Turkey Creek Preserve in Fort Calhoun; a consultant on various projects at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and chair of UNO's Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies. Add to that editor of Fines Lines Journal; member of the Night Writers Writing Group and two book clubs; board member for Omaha Suburban Rotary and chair of Rotary's World Service Committee.

**On retiring at 67:** "Wanting flexibility in my schedule and career expansion, I decided to invent my own job. I retired on a Thursday. On Friday, my largest foundation client called to say that she couldn't work without me. Hired immediately, my consulting business began."

**On building her business:** "Upon founding Inspired Giving, I planned to help individuals structure their charitable giving — how much to give, what charities to give to, writing their agreements. I do this, but more. For example, I've been heavily involved in helping the Turkey Creek owner form her own foundation. I'm working with Global Partners in Hope, a nonprofit that builds hospitals in Africa, to design a giving campaign."

**On a typical day:** "No day is typical. I rise early, read, meditate and work from home all morning. I meet clients or friends for lunch, and have more client meetings in the afternoon. I pick up grandkids after school a couple of days a week and try to fit in exercise."

**Her loves:** "Traveling! My husband and I just returned from Italy. Also, writing creative nonfiction is a passion. I save Fridays for writing. My four children and eight grandchildren are good for my soul. I cook family dinners where we gather to have fun. I volunteer with several groups and regularly audit classes at the university."

**A retirement pet peeve:** "Being asked if I enjoy playing bridge and shopping. This tired stereotype needs to be put to rest. So many seniors are doing amazing things in their later years."

**What's next:** In Spring 2019, Bob and I will move to Turkey Creek Preserve. I plan to narrow my responsibilities then so that I can devote more time to this great project. Most days I drive home after a full day's work thinking how lucky I am to be alive, doing what I do, working with incredible people. Life is good!"



## Volunteer and musician

**Joe Cabral:** Active, engaged in his community and making a difference

The 80-year-old Ralson resident worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 36 years. He left his position as facilities manager at age 55. Today he volunteers as building and grounds chairman for the GI Forum, a Mexican-American veterans/family organization. He enjoys golf and performs on occasion with two bands, Mariachi San Juan and the Don Juan Combo.

**On the timing of his retirement:** "I was offered a buyout which was too good to pass up." Cabral planned to improve his golf game when he retired. But he did much more. In 1992, he started a golf tournament to raise money for scholarships for South Omaha high students. "As a life-long musician, I wanted to give kids the opportunity to study music in college." The tourney and scholarships continue today. As does his pursuit of a lower golf score.

**On a typical day:** "My wife and I like to have breakfast out and do something purposeful. As a GI Forum volunteer, I stay active with any issues that arise for the organization. I play the piano every day and practice trumpet. I play an occasional mariachi job with my friends. We talk almost daily with our children in Omaha, Virginia and New Orleans."

**Stereotypes about retirement that bug him:** "People think that because you're retired, you have nothing else to do and you're available to do things for them. Instead, after retirement, you are so busy you can't get everything done in a day, and you wonder how you ever had time to work."

**What's next:** "Hopefully to continue in good health, stay active, play more golf and do some more traveling. We have grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Oregon we'd like to visit, plus relatives in New Orleans and Virginia. Also, listening to and playing music and golf will always be a large part of my life."



## Teacher-turned-traveler

**Marsha Urban:** When life gave her lemons, she got a passport

Urban worked in education for 28 years before retiring at age 63 as instructional facilitator at Gomez Heritage Elementary. Now, at 65, she's a part-time reading support specialist at the school, grandma to seven (soon to be eight), gardener, outdoors lover and traveler.

**On her retirement:** "My husband, Frank, and I had planned that I would retire at 63. When he passed away at 63 (I was 61), I kept working as planned. I am so glad I did. My family and co-workers were incredibly supportive and helped me heal."

**On finding her new normal:** She and Frank had many plans — attending the Yankees' spring training, watching grandchildren's sports, helping with a son's new restaurant, taking care of her 90-year-old parents. "Life changed my plan. By the time I turned 63, I had lost my husband and both of my parents. I was living alone for the first time in my life."

**What she realized:** "I learned a valuable lesson from my oldest daughter, Shelly. I lost her to cancer when she was 24. She was a wife, teacher and a brand-new mom, and despite everything, she never quit. There's a saying about not being able to control the cards you're dealt, but you can control how you play your hand. Sitting home alone did not work for me. It was too easy to slip into a 'poor me' attitude."

**What's next:** "Spring training in March and Hawaii in April. My bucket list is to travel to every national park. My 16-hour-a-week-job ends in April, so I'll see if another opportunity knocks. My spring and summer are full of gardening and grandchildren activities, and I love it."





## COMMENTARY I (NOT) JUST FOR FARMERS

# Thank you and an apology to Seward Rotarians

On the 24th of January, the Seward Rotary Club had a luncheon meeting and had Governor Pete Ricketts as their guest speaker. The meeting was held downstairs at Jones Bank and it was very well attended. The Rotarians were welcoming and even though I didn't have an official invitation, they were very gracious. The food and the fellowship were excellent.

I had searched my computer to learn more about the Rotary Club (I've learned that computers don't just hate me, they hate practically everyone).

Members of the Rotary Club can be proud of their accomplishments as they support so many projects with their funding and their service. It's very impressive. The information about the Rotarians lists six bullet points of their concerns and efforts. The last two bullet points relate their concerns and efforts about education and local economies.

We, in the Fair Nebraska movement, have similar goals. Fair Nebraska has accurately told

the public what is happening to our public schools due to Governor Ricketts and the Unicameral. We have also described, ahead of time, many of our present problems and the results to the taxpayer-



ers as the funding to public education will deteriorate in times of falling ag land values.

For example, the value of ag land in the Cozad school district probably will go down 7 percent in this year. So, how does Cozad fund the cost of educating their students? To receive the same amount of funding (zero increase in a time of inflating costs) they will have to have a vote by their constituents to over-ride the state mandated levy limit. Good luck getting that done.

Ask Josh Fields, Seward schools superintendent, with increasing enrollment and higher costs every year, if he can do a sufficient job of educating our youth under that scenario.

Ask Mike Lucas and York schools how many teachers and how many programs will need to be eliminated. In the case at York, a 7 percent reduction in land value would lower the funding nearly a million dollars, in Seward's case the reduction would amount nearly three-quarter of a million.

Seward and York schools are rural and their state aid has diminished.

In a three year period, around the time of annexation by Omaha, Elkhorn's state aid went from \$706,838 per year to \$18,603,564. That tells me that instead of having two elephants (agriculture and education) in the room, we have now added an 800-pound gorilla to the room, that being Omaha.

As far as local economic development, if the state lived up to

its responsibility to help fund our schools, our rural towns, cities, and counties could have economic development that would amaze everybody. As it is, Governor Ricketts and the Unicameral are throwing all of rural Nebraska under the bus.

I also want to renew my pledge to run in opposition of Governor Ricketts, to insure a debate on these issues. And I promise to vote against me if I do run.

If I offended anyone at the Rotary Club, I sincerely apologize. The governor has refused to meet with Fair Nebraska which leaves us with few alternatives to have a meaningful discussion.

## Dennis Richters

**Charter member  
of Fair Nebraska**  
402 641-5074

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018  
 Frequency: WEEKLY  
 Circulation: 38,000  
 Clip Size: 71.15 sq. inches  
 Ad Rate: \$42.53  
 Page/Section: N 0019



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## community CALENDAR THIS WEEKEND

- Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center annual meeting 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Nature Center in Pioneers Park. Refreshments and two presentations: "Nebraska's Unique Landscape Time-Lapse," by photographer Adrian Olivera, and "Landscapes Planted for a Purpose," by Bob Hendrickson with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. To register, contact the Nature Center at 402-441-7895 or visit [parks.lincoln.ne.gov](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov) and select the "register online" button. More info. at [parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter).
- Dr. Brenda Wristen presents "Landscapes Planted for a Purpose," 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Fellowship Community Church, 8601 Holdrege St. Lincoln Music Teachers Association presentation covers ergonomics, biomechanics, physics, anatomy, medicine and music pedagogy for a variety of pieces and styles. Free.
- Under way: New exhibition, "Cowboys from the Collection" opened last week, continues through April 28 at the Great Plains Art Museum, 12th & Q streets. Special opening reception during Lincoln's First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 2, with food and drink.
- Husker men's basketball team plays host to Iowa, 7 p.m. Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena.
- Under way: S.T.A.G.E. student theatre's musical comedy, "A Geek Tragedy," opened last weekend in Kaczmarek Hall at St. Teresa Church, 735 S. 36th St. Remaining shows set for 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Doors open 30 minutes before showtime.
- Writers' Night 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Gratitude Café & Bakery, 1551 N. Cotner Blvd.
- "Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6," 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, 301 N. 12th St. With 20 Grammy Awards between them, these two iconic groups have joined forces as The Summit. They will showcase crystal-clear harmonies, syncopated rhythms and rich gospel sounds. Tickets on the Lied Center website and at the box office.
- Under way: World premiere of "TBD (To Be Determined)" opened last weekend at Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St. Remaining shows 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets \$25 for adults and \$15 for students (play is recommended for adult audiences). Reservations at [lincolnplayhouse.com](http://lincolnplayhouse.com) or call the box office at (402) 489-7529.

- Under way: Nebraska Wesleyan opened its spring theatre season last week with Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," in Miller Theatre, 50th & Huntington Ave. Remaining shows 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and students; buy tickets at [theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu) or call (402) 465-2384.
- American Red Cross Bloodmobile at American Red Cross Capital City Chapter, 220 Oakcreek Dr. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. To make an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767.
- 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.)
- 13th annual Scholarship Pancake Feed 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at Lincoln Elks Lodge #80, 5190 S. 58th St., Lincoln Trade Center. Tickets \$5 for adults (\$6 at the door), \$2.50 for ages 6-12, free for ages 5 and under. All-you-can-eat pancakes with syrup, assorted toppings, sausage, juice, milk and coffee.
- 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.
- The Nebraska Brass presents "Hot Tunes for Cold Nights," 3 p.m. Sunday at Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington St. \$15.

### 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.
- Executive Club of Lincoln weekly noon luncheon schedule resumes at The Nebraska Club, 20th floor of U.S. Bank, 12th and M streets. Guest speaker: University of Nebraska Regent Tim Claire.
- Kander & Ebb to present "A Celebration of American Song," 7:30 p.m., at the Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R streets. Tickets (adults \$5, students/

seniors \$3) at the door the night of the performance with open seating.

### TUESDAY

- Lincoln Sunrise Kiwanis Club meeting 6:30 a.m. in the Flanagan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South St. Guest speaker: Mike Renken, CEO of NeighborWorks Lincoln.
- Lincoln Rotary Club #14 weekly noon luncheon meeting schedule resumes at The Nebraska Club, 20th floor of US Bank, 12th and M streets. Guest speaker: Christi Chaves, St. Elizabeth Burn Center. "Center Update and Burn Camp."
- American Red Cross provides blood donation opportunity, noon to 6 p.m. at the American Red Cross Capital City Chapter, 220 Oakcreek Dr. Make an appointment by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-733-2767.
- 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.
- Dance to the music of the C.J. Honnor Quartet, 7 to 9 p.m. at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park, 3140 Sumner St. Ballroom and other varieties of dance.
- Lincoln Continentals men's capella chorus weekly rehearsal, 7 to 9 p.m. at Northeast United Church of Christ Social Hall, 6200 Adams St. New singers, guests welcome.
- Lincolnshire Chorus weekly rehearsal, 7 to 9 p.m. at Vine Congregational UCC, 1800 Twin Ridge Rd.
- Jam session 7 to 10 p.m. at Fraternal Order of Eagles - Lincoln Auxiliary 147, 500 West Industrial Lake Drive. \$4. Food (club menu) served from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Prairie Astronomy Club monthly meeting 7:30 p.m. at Hyde Observatory in Holmes Park to be followed by "how to use your telescope" session conducted by club members. See article in this issue.

### 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.
- Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis Club

weekly noon luncheon meeting at Golden Corral, 3940 N. 27th St. Program: member communication.

- 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. Guest speaker: Feroz Mohmand.
- 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.
- Chiara String Quartet presents the third concert in their final Hixson-Lied Concert Series titled "The Family of Strings," 7:30 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R streets. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets available in advance at the Lied Center Box Office at (402) 472-4747.

### THURSDAY

- Lincoln Northeast Sertoma Club breakfast meeting 7 a.m. in Hy-Vee Club Room, 5020 O St.
- 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.
- That's Modern Quilt Exhibition opens at Lux Center for the Arts, 2601 N. 48th St., open throughout the month of February at the gallery (hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5 on Saturdays). First Friday reception 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 2. Quilts are by Lincoln Modern Quilt Guild members. Come and learn what Modern quilting is all about.
- 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)
- 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.
- Husker women's basketball team plays host to Illinois, 7 p.m. at Pinnacle Bank Arena.
- Nebraska Wesleyan University

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018  
 Frequency: WEEKLY  
 Circulation: 38,000  
 Clip Size: 71.15 sq. inches  
 Ad Rate: \$42.53  
 Page/Section: N 0019

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Theatre Department presents the Tony Award-winning "Peter and the Starcatcher," 7:30 p.m. in McDonald Theatre, 51st & Huntington Ave. Additional performances 7:30 p.m. Feb. 2-3 and 8-10, with 2 p.m. matinees Feb. 4 and 11. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and students, purchase at theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu or call (402) 465-2384.

### ■ FRIDAY

- Church Women United to meet at Northeast United Church of Christ, 6200 Adams. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. followed with Bible Study at 10 a.m. led by Mavis Ganzel. Program at 10:30: Speaker Judy Reimer, Convener of Church Women United in Nebraska, Inc. and Coordinator for the Central District of the National body of Church Women United. Business meeting follows. Offering for local mission. Board meeting at end of agenda. All women are welcome. More info: Ruby at (402) 488-4815.

- First Friday Jazz Concert Series continues 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Activity Center at First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th St., with Peter Bouffard and his group. See article in this issue.

- SPUMMA (Saint Paul United Methodist Music and Art) series features 12:10 p.m. concert by Concordia University Organ Department at Saint Paul UMC, 1144 M St. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. and following concert. See article in this issue.

- Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club weekly noon luncheon meeting on 20th floor of U.S. Bank, 13th and M streets.

- Lincoln South Rotary Club weekly noon luncheon at The Venue Restaurant, 70th & Pioneers Blvd.

- 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>

- LUX Center for the Arts presents First Friday with "Photo Ceramica" by

Peter Olson and "Surfaces/Supports" by Ryan Crotty, 5 to 8 p.m. opening reception at the LUX Center, 2601 N. 48th St.

- Harlem Globetrotters basketball exhibition 7 p.m. at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

- Folk and blues music of Dr. John Walker from 7 to 9 p.m. at Gratitude Café & Bakery, 1551 N. Cotner Blvd.

### ■ NEXT WEEKEND

- Brock's Boutique, offering free clothes and kids' books, open 9 a.m. to noon next 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 meal 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. next 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 (Feb. 4) following 11 a.m. worship service.

- Music by The Time Burners 7 to 9 p.m. next Saturday at Gratitude Café & Bakery, 1551 N. Cotner Blvd., featuring release of their album "The Girl Can Cook."

- WWE Live: Road to Wrestlemania, 7:30 p.m. next Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

- Grace Lutheran Church youth will participate in Souper Bowl of Caring, on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 4), 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. Donations may also be dropped off at the church office next week (8:30 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30).



# Rotary, US Bank honor East High English teacher

Jim Rosenberger, an English teacher at Lincoln East High School and a 14-year veteran of the teaching profession, is the latest Teacher of the Month honoree recognized by the Lincoln East Rotary Club and US Bank.

Rosenberger is in his seventh year on the faculty at East High after teaching stints at Lincoln Southwest (2004-2007) and Blue Valley North High School (2007-2011). He coaches soccer at Lincoln Southwest.

"Jim constantly seeks feedback from his students so they can better master the learning objectives," said East High Principal Susan Cassata. "As a result of the feedback he changes his teaching and instruction to meet the needs of all learners."

Bill Dimon, the English Department head at Lincoln East, added: "Mr. Rosenberger has built one of the most successful after-school clubs at East,

*"I love working with people, and I love helping people find joy in learning. Every class period is a new challenge, and the rewards of this job are never-ending."*

- Teacher of the Month Jim Rosenberger, Lincoln East

that being the fishing club, because of his infectious passion for fishing, and the knowledge of fishing he brings to the members of the club."

He added: "Mr. Rosenberger consistently depicts what it means to be a professional teacher and a dedicated colleague each and every day he walks into East High School. He is known for his commanding yet grace-filled presence, his consistent and focused attention to students, and as a forever helpful mentor to his department and to the staff in general."

Rosenberger added: "I love working with people,

and I love helping people find joy in learning. Every class period is a new challenge, and the rewards of this job are never-ending."

He holds a B.A. in English from Truman University and a Masters of Education in curriculum and instruction from Doane University.

He and his wife, Kate Rosenberger, M.D., an otolaryngologist, have three children: Finn, 6; Hank, 4; and Brooks, 16 months.

Rosenberger received \$100 each from East Rotary and U.S. Bank, with one check for personal use and the other to buy classroom materials not provided by the school district.

# NEIGHBORHOOD EXTRA

LINCOLN, Nebraska

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Frequency: WEEKLY  
Circulation: 38,000  
Clip Size: 41.99 sq. inches  
Ad Rate: \$42.53  
Page/Section: N 0013

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COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left: Kayla Finck, US Bank; Jim Rosenberger, Teacher of the Month; Bill Dimon, English Department head at East High; and Wayne Casper, East Rotary Club Teacher of the Month Committee chair.





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# State continues business growth

Gov. Pete Ricketts  
speaks during Friday  
Rotary meeting at FGC

**SAM PIMPER**

Fremont Tribune

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts never misses an opportunity to talk openly about the importance of growing the state in numerous ways moving forward.

On Friday afternoon, Ricketts spoke before a group of Fremont Rotary Club members at Fremont Golf Club during one of their monthly meetings.

"The vision for my administration is to grow Nebraska," Ricketts said. "And by that I mean create more, better paying job opportunities here in the state, keep our people here and attract people from around the country and around the world to come and make Nebraska their home."

In terms of growth, the governor said 2017 was a big year full of accomplishments. One of these accomplishments was winning the 2017 Site Selection Magazine's Governors Cup, presented to the state with the most economic development projects

per-capita.

Nebraska, Ricketts said, had more economic development than North Dakota, South Dakota and Kansas combined.

"That represents those companies (coming to Nebraska) having faith in our state," Ricketts said. "They want to invest here and create those jobs here, and what we need to do is continue to make sure that we create that environment for those companies to invest in our state. Ultimately, that's how we create those opportunities for our young people to make sure they can find the careers they want right here in our state."

Nebraska, traditionally known as an agriculture state, in 2016 surpassed a million non-farming jobs for the first time, and last year, continued building upon that number, Ricketts said. In addition to the creation of non-farming jobs, Nebraska currently has an unemployment percentage of 2.7 percent, which is lowest in the state since

1999, and also one of the lowest unemployment percentages nationwide.

Another accomplishment is actual physical growth of population, he said. Reaching a grand total of 1.92 million Nebraska residents, the state is currently as populated as it's ever been.

While speaking of economic growth, business and development, Ricketts touched upon the Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry facility scheduled to open in

Please see **RICKETTS**, Page A7

## Ricketts

From A1

The project, he said, was a \$300 million investment in the local community.

"It will create about 800 jobs, and about 120 opportunities for farmers to put up poultry barns," he said. "It will allow them to diversify their income, and we think that the project will have about a bil-

lion dollar impact on the state. And that right there is how we grow Nebraska, by attracting those kinds of companies."

Ricketts praised local and state entities for making the project come to fruition.

"You can all be very proud of the work that the Fremont Chamber did working together with the Omaha Chamber – it was a real team effort to be able to do this," he said. "... Of course, our team with the state government was also supportive. We had the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Department of Transportation, all working together to help meet the needs of Costco so they felt confident investing here."



**SAM PIMPER, FREMONT TRIBUNE**

Fremont Rotary Club members visit at Fremont Golf Club during one of their monthly meetings Friday in Fremont. Gov. Pete Ricketts was guest speaker and spoke about the importance of growing the state in numerous ways moving forward.



**SAM PIMPER, FREMONT TRIBUNE**

Gov. Pete Ricketts speaks with Barry Benson, president of First National Bank Fremont, Friday afternoon at Fremont Golf Club prior to a Fremont Rotary Club meeting.



# BULLETIN BOARD



The Fremont Rotary Club gave Wishing Wheels \$3,816 towards their bicycle project. Pictured, from left, are: Rotary President Barry Benson, Dave Mitchell, Deb Niles-Maurer and Rev. Mike Thomas. Mitchell and Thomas also are Rotarians. Mitchell and Niles-Maurer head up Wishing Wheels.



## Rotary Club looking for project ideas

### *From Staff Reports*

ASHLAND – The Rotary Club of Ashland is seeking public input on projects that will help the community.

Rotary Club International, the club's parent organization, allows clubs to apply for a grant to fund a one-time project that benefit a community in the area. The cost of the project can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

"We try to do a project every year," said Ashland Rotary President Joe Baudler.

In recent years, the club has undertaken projects

like purchasing a table and shade cover for the Ashland Splash Pad, planting trees at the Ashland-Greenwood High School track and field complex, putting a park bench at the city parking lot at 13th and Silver streets and providing funds for music equipment in a playground at Camp Kitaki near South Bend.

Now, the club would like the public's help in selecting the next project.

"We are soliciting ideas from the community," Baudler said.

Possible areas of focus in-

clude humanitarian, health and sanitation, education, vocational and cultural, economic and community development, according to Baudler.

Ideas should be submitted by May. To submit an idea, send a message via the club's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Ashland-NE-Rotary-Club>, or email Baudler at [josephbaudler@ashland-ne.com](mailto:josephbaudler@ashland-ne.com) or contact a member of the Rotary Club.

Rotary International has more than 35,000 clubs world-

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## Ideas

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wide who work together to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, save mothers and children, support education and grow local economies.

The Rotary Club of Ashland was chartered in 1935. The organization meets every Tuesday morning at Cheri O's, 1404 Silver Street, from 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.