

A look at what's happening in the area



**Caring Hearts**

**NORFOLK** — The Caring Hearts Cancer Support Group will meet Friday, Feb. 14, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Madison Room at Faith Regional Health Services' west campus. Diana Gaspers, spiritual chaplain at Faith Regional, will speak about "Cancer, Courage Through Christ."

For more information, call Renee Halsey at 379-2569 or Donna Woods at 371-6563.

**WDS to meet**

**NORFOLK** — The Widowed, Divorced and Singles Group will be playing pitch at the First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall on Friday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. All widowed, divorced and separated individuals are invited to attend.

**Group to meet**

**NORFOLK** — Compassionate Friends will meet Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Center. Officers will be elected during the meeting. For more information, call Jerry Nordeen at 841-8549.

**Sunday brunch**

**MADISON** — Northside Senior Center, 512 N. Main, Madison, will host a Sunday brunch on Feb. 16, serving from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The menu will be sausage gravy and biscuits, scrambled eggs, tri-taters, fruit cup, juice, coffee and milk.

**Shoplifting**

**NORFOLK** — A report of theft at Wal-Mart led to the arrest of a Coleridge man for felony shoplifting.

Capt. Mike Bauer with the Norfolk Police Division said officers were dispatched to the retailer on Tuesday at about 10:55 a.m.

When officers arrived, members of the loss prevention department explained they had detained Andrew A. Jones for shoplifting.

It was alleged that Jones, 37, had taken several DVDs out of their cases and placed them inside his coat pocket. A total of 16 DVDs were stolen, worth a total of \$197.94.

Jones was placed under arrest for felony shoplifting. He was housed in the Norfolk city jail and later transferred to the Madison County jail.

**Volunteers needed**

**NORFOLK** — The Norfolk Senior Citizens Center is seeking volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, call Jennifer at 371-8299 or 371-3930.

**PUBLIC RECORD**

**POLICE DIVISION**

**Bookings** (Arrests made or citations issued by the Norfolk Police Division)

Wednesday: Tonia Odgaard, 31, homeless, driving under suspension; John Ellis, 44, 1208 W. Norfolk Ave., driving under suspension.

Tuesday: Andrew Jones, 37, Coleridge, felony shoplifting; Joshua Kester, 34, 4601 S. 13th St., driving under suspension.

Jan. 22: Owen Schmidt, 23, 1213 Koenigstein Ave., theft.

**Accidents**

I thank God for his many blessings on my 90th birthday, and for all of the good memories. God's blessings be upon all of the people and my family for all the many cards and good wishes. It brought tears to my eyes and made my day!

As Ever God's Blessing To All My Friends & Family  
Gib Fisher



**Good afternoon:**  
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Thank you for subscribing.

**Visitors bureau sponsoring summer events**

By **JERRY GUENTHER**  
regional@norfolkdailynews.com

It won't be just talk about health care and old war stories that get traded when the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion returns to Norfolk this summer.

There will be national entertainment, including performances by Paul Revere & the Raiders and Lee Greenwood. The event is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14, to Sunday, Aug. 17, at Divots Conference Center.

Paul Revere & the Raiders had several hits in the 1960s and '70s, including "Kicks" and "Indian Reservation." Greenwood performs "God Bless the USA" and other country songs.

During the advisory board meeting of the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau on Tuesday, one of the topics was ways to support the reunion and the 10th annual Christian Cross Festival in Norfolk in June.

The reunion is expected to bring hundreds of people to Norfolk, most of whom will be staying in motels. The Christian Cross Festival will bring thousands of people to Norfolk on Saturday, June 7, and is expected to include thousands of visitors, including some who have traveled great distances and will spend the night.

Shawn Severson, who serves as the general manager of Norfolk Lodge & Suites and concert organizer, said this will be the 30th Vietnam veterans reunion.

"We're full," he said, "all 400 rooms for all three nights."

The reunion, which last took place in Norfolk in 2010, has the support of the community and is getting sponsorships. The Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau voted to be a \$2,500 sponsor for the event.

The Christian Cross Festival also re-

ceived \$2,500 from the bureau, which is an increase from \$1,000 in the past.

The board voted to have the funds designated to be spent on marketing the festival, with the funds targeting individuals living at least 75 miles from Norfolk.

Jeffrey Steffen, chairman of the advisory board, said efforts will include more headline entertainment, with hopes to expand some of the stages.

Ron Stauffer, another board member who has helped the Christian Cross Festival with fundraising, said the festival traditionally draws good crowds from Omaha and Lincoln, with efforts this year to attract more people from Sioux City.

"This year, they are projecting to draw between 4,000 and 5,000 people," Stauffer said.

In other business at Tuesday's meet-

ing: ■ The board voted to postpone action on an invitation to be part of a mobile app being developed by the Norfolk Daily News and Divots. Invitations have been extended to both the visitors bureau and the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce to be partners in the app for a fee. The mobile app — which will be designed to promote Norfolk activities and events, along with places to stay, shop and dine, and would be free to download — would be promoted by the Daily News and updated by the newspaper to provide fresh content. The scheduled launch date is May 1. The newspaper has two employees working significant hours to develop it.

■ Norfolk will be a host for the 2014 Nebraska Chautauqua, which will include historical pieces, as well as educational and entertainment offerings from Wednesday to Sunday, June 18-22. It is scheduled to take place in Warren Cook Park north of the Norfolk Public Library and at the Elkhorn Valley Historical Museum & Research Center, with many of the activities scheduled to take place under a big-top tent and attracting about 500 people nightly.

■ The Leap National Dance competition will be Friday to Sunday, March 14, 15 and 16, at the Johnny Carson Theatre. More than 500 dancers are expected to compete.

**State treasurer talks financial competition**

By **GRACE PETERSEN**  
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Now is the time to start saving for the future.

The same can be said for becoming financially literate.

That's the message Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg sent to Norfolk High School students on Tuesday during an assembly.



Also speaking to the students were Dr. Chuck Parker, director of the center of economic education at Wayne State College, and Jennifer Davidson, director of programs and community development for the Nebraska Council on Economic Education.

"The finance challenge is a fun way to get through this financial literacy stuff," Davidson said.

The first part of the challenge is an online test, which is taken individually but scored as a team.

The top five teams in each region will then compete in regionals on April 19 in Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney.

At regionals, Davidson said, teams receive a comprehensive financial situation for a fictitious family. They must come up with a plan, create a PowerPoint presentation and present it to the judges. Winners will be determined in each region and then will look at the online score to name

the overall state winners — who then receive prizes.

"These prizes come in the form of a contribution to the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust college saving plan," Stenberg said.

A TOTAL of \$14,000 in prizes will be awarded to the winners from the Nebraska Education Savings Trust (NEST), a division of the state treasurer's office. Divided, that's \$2,000 for each first-place winner, \$1,000 for each second-place winner and \$500 for each third-place winner.

The top-ranking team will then participate in the national competition in St. Louis.

"The Personal Finance Challenge statewide competition is an excellent way to promote education on economics and personal finance in high schools throughout our state," Stenberg said.

Last year, the top winners were: Johnson-Brock High School in Johnson, first place; West Point-Beemer in West Point, second place; and Burwell High School, third.

To prepare for the challenge competition, Stenberg urged students to use the new financial educational program — the Nebraska NEST Financial Scholars online program — developed by EverFi.

The course is offered in 10 modules and can be completed in about eight hours, he said.

"That preparation will help you make good decisions in the future about your personal finances so that you'll be able to reach whatever your goals in life may be," Stenberg said.

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**Want to learn more?**  
For more information about the competition, visit [www.financialchallenge.org](http://www.financialchallenge.org).  
For more information about the online financial educational program, visit [www.treasurer.org](http://www.treasurer.org).



**ADDYSEN CLYDE** (left) was the winner in the fifth- to sixth-grade division of the Youth Philanthropy Contest. Standing with Addysen is Tammy Day.

**Youth contest winners offer comfort to children, patients**

*Editor's note: The following is the third in a weeklong series of stories highlighting the winners — and their projects — of the Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska's youth contest. Each winner will receive \$1,000 toward the project to be completed in the next nine months.*

By **GRACE PETERSEN**  
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Providing comfort. That's what the following two winners of the Youth Philanthropy Contest were aiming for with their projects.

In the fifth- and sixth-grade division, Addysen Clyde won with her project Dream Big bags. Addysen will put together 50 bags for children who stay at a Bright Horizons' shelter.

"The bags are filled with items to make them feel at home, happy and safe," she said, adding that each bag also will have a dreamcatcher.

Bright Horizons, Addysen said, has had an impact on her young life.

"My mom used to work at Bright Horizons, and I would sometimes volunteer at the shelter or with the children's support group. My mom would also have to watch some of the children in shelter at our house when there was no one else to take care of them while their moms worked or had class," Addysen said. "I helped my mom take care of those children and even took two boys trick-or-



**WINNING IN** the Young Adult Division of the contest were Sydney Owen (front row, from left), Katie Owen and Kelsie Sturm with their project Cancer Care Kits. In the back row are Shalle Wolff and Holly Quinn.

treating one year. I want them to feel like the shelter is their home while they are going (through it)."

Addysen said she hopes the bags give the children a ray of hope while at the shelter.

"I couldn't imagine if I had to leave," she said.

**IN THE** Young Adult Division, Katie Owen, Sydney Owen and Kelsie Sturm won with their project called Cancer Care Kits. With this project, baskets will be provided to patients receiving cancer treatments at the Carson Cancer

Center. The baskets will contain such things as water bottles, bracelets, hard candy, fun books, crayons, handkerchiefs, lotion and Chapstick.

"(Patients) will have something to do during their treatments," the application read.

The group chose this project because they said everyone is affected by cancer.

"We want them to know that they aren't alone, and others care about them, even though we don't know them personally," Katie Owen said. "We feel honored to be picked to help the community."

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