



NORFOLK DAILY NEWS

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UP FRONT

A glance at what's going on in the news



REGION

Retiring bus driver

Ron Bessmer — or “Bez” as many kids have called him — has driven a school bus in Plainview since 1965. At the end of the recently concluded school year, he said goodbye to his bus-driving days.

“Meeting all of the kids was the best part,” Bessmer said. “Some of them, I’ve driven three generations of their families.”

See page 2

Setback for hospital

The Winnebago Indian Health Services Hospital in Northeast Nebraska has been put on notice that it is set to lose Medicare funding within the next week, after an investigation of a patient who died there in April.

See page 2

WORLD

Worldwide waistlines

Almost a third of the world is now overweight, and no country has been able to curb obesity rates in the last three decades, according to a new global analysis.

Researchers found that more than 2 billion people worldwide are now overweight or obese. The highest rates were in the Middle East and North Africa, where nearly 60 percent of men and 65 percent of women are heavy. The U.S. has about 13 percent of the world’s fat population, a greater percentage than any other country. China and India combined have about 15 percent.

“It’s pretty grim,” said Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, who led the study. He and colleagues reviewed more than 1,700 studies covering 188 countries from 1980 to 2013. “When we realized that not a single country has had a significant decline in obesity, that tells you how hard a challenge this is.”

NORFOLK

Truck inspections

Authorities recorded more than 260 violations during surprise truck inspections.

See page 17

INSIDE



In “Maleficent,” Jolie plays a fun hero-villain. Pull out today’s Insider following page 18

Circus	7	Funerals	5
City	17	Living	10
Comics	16	Markets	8
Crossword	16	Nebraska	2
Dear Abby	9	Pluggers	7
Dr. Roach	9	Sports	13
Editorials	4	Weather	12

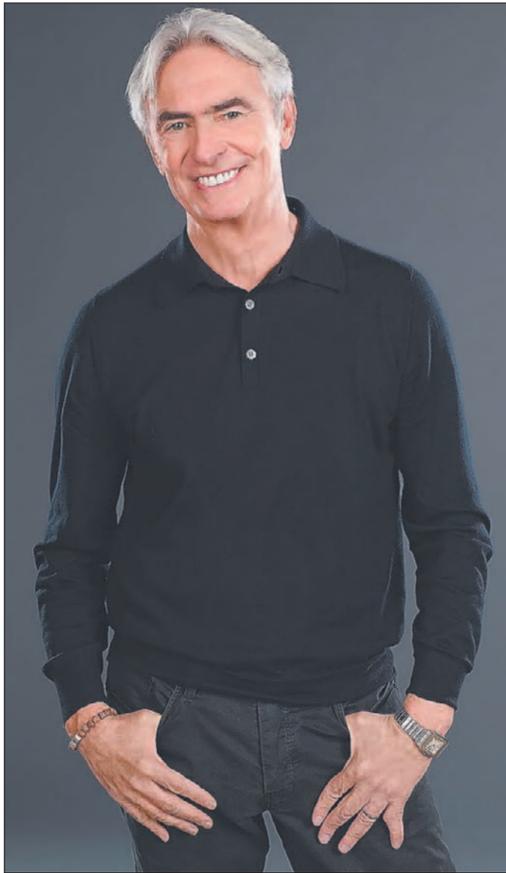
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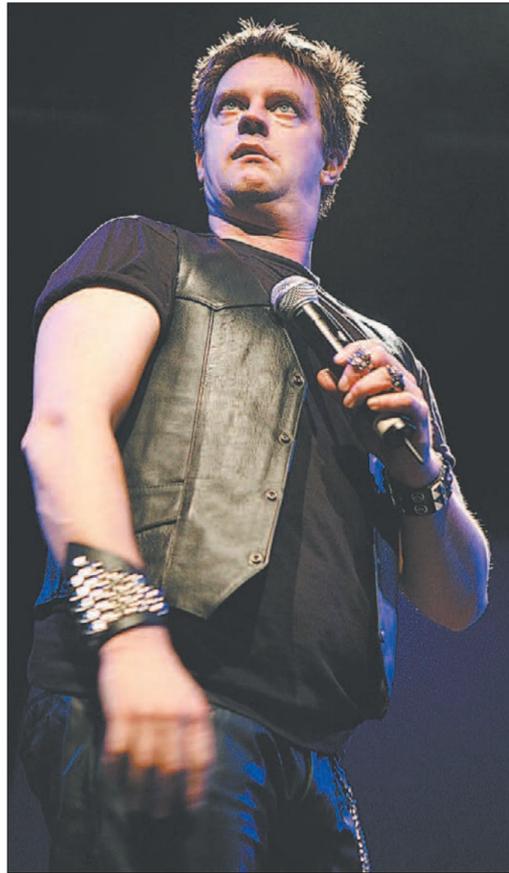
Festival gala and professional stand-up competition finals

WHEN: Saturday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. WHERE: Johnny Carson Theatre



COURTESY PHOTO

DAVID STEINBERG says the time he spent with Johnny Carson on “The Tonight Show” has been the favorite part of his decades-long career. Steinberg will receive the Johnny Carson Comedy Legend award on Saturday, June 14, during the Great American Comedy Festival.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIM BREUER, who will headline the Saturday, June 14, performance of the Great American Comedy Festival in Norfolk, said he regularly watches highlights of Johnny Carson’s performances on “The Tonight Show” with his 91-year-old father.

FOLLOWING CARSON’S LEAD

Steinberg convinced Carson to do improv on ‘Tonight Show’

By NATASHA RAUSCH
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All it took was several months of begging and pleading to get Johnny Carson to do some improv comedy with David Steinberg.

Carson said it wouldn’t work. The producers had to know what the topics were so the show could run smoothly. That’s how things had always been done on “The Tonight Show.”

“Just sitting down with Johnny was a big deal,” Steinberg said. “I wanted to go a step further, though. I didn’t want to have to tell the producers what the topics were. And one day, Johnny finally said OK.”

The NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers and dating — that was all Steinberg told Carson they would talk about.

To Carson’s surprise, it worked. Before Steinberg could even get his first sentence out about the Lakers, Carson had the studio audience rolling with laughter about the basketball team. In the next segment, the audience reacted the same way to Carson’s recall of his dating life.

At the commercial break, Carson looked at Steinberg and said, “That was vintage style Steinberg today.”

Next month, Steinberg, who made 140 appearances on “The Tonight Show,” will be traveling to Carson’s hometown of Norfolk for the seventh annual Great American Comedy Festival presented by Nucor.

►Please see **STEINBERG**, page 12

Get to know David Steinberg

■ Began career in theology before switching to comedy.

■ Made the second-highest number of appearances on “The Tonight Show” after Bob Hope.

■ Directed comedies such as “Friends,” “Seinfeld,” “Mad About You” and “Newhart.”

■ Directed more than 300 commercials and several feature films.

■ Hosted, produced and directed “Sit Down Comedy” for two years.

■ Follow him on Twitter @david_steinberg or on his website — www.thedavidsteinberg.com

Get to know Jim Breuer

■ Cast member on NBC’s “Saturday Night Live” beginning in 1995.

■ Married for 21 years.

■ Three daughters.

■ His parents live with him at his house.

■ His latest comedy special “And Laughter for All” is the most watched special on Netflix.

■ Up next in 2015?

A heavy metal comedy album featuring famous hard rock performers.

Cosby urged Breuer that his stand-up act could ‘inspire people’

By MICHAEL AVOK
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Family friendly can be funny. Very funny.

After two decades of doing comedy on NBC’s “Saturday Night Live,” countless tours and cable specials, Jim Breuer said he has figured it out.

All it took was a visit from the doctor — as in Dr. William H. Cosby Jr.

Breuer, the headliner for this year’s Great American Comedy Festival in Norfolk, said a 2007 conversation with “The Cos” pointed him toward the family angle of comedy.

It was Fat Albert/Dr. Cliff Huxtable giving advice to Goat Boy.

“He told me I could inspire people in my stand-up,” said Breuer, who is known for his loud and over-the-top characters and impressions. “Since then, all of my comedy is very family friendly.”

“Without going soft,” he added, his voice trailing off a bit.

Don’t expect a demure Breuer when he comes to Norfolk.

He will turn 47 during his Norfolk stay, and his message and his comedy are indeed family friendly. But his delivery is as loud and glitzy as the heavy metal music he loves.

Breuer’s comedic content has evolved over the years into what he calls “the best part of my career.” He also likened the change to a rebirth in his stand-up comedy.

“I found my strength, and I found my voice,” Breuer said. “And, my voice has always been my family.”

►Please see **BREUER**, page 12

Suspect pleads not guilty in 2011 death

By ANDREA LARSON
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PIERCE — A man accused of killing a Norfolk teenager in 2011 appeared in Pierce County district court here Thursday morning.

Daniel Hofmann of Columbus pleaded not guilty to four charges brought against

him — manslaughter, terroristic threats, use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony and tampering with evidence — in the death of 18-year-old Wesley Kuester.

Hofmann was represented by Pierce County Public Defender Ted Lohrborg, who was filling in for Hofmann’s appointed attorney, Kate Jorgensen.

Judge James Kube set Hofmann’s pretrial date for Thursday, July 31. Hofmann’s trial was set for Monday, Aug. 4.

If convicted of manslaughter, Hofmann faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine, with a minimum of one year.

►Please see **DEATH**, page 12

Justices consider same-sex divorce

Couple married in Iowa now living in Nebraska

LINCOLN (AP) — A same-sex divorce case involving two women legally married in Iowa is in the hands of the Nebraska Supreme Court, which could decide whether the state must recognize the relationship.

The court heard arguments Wednesday in the case of Bonnie Nichols, a Raymond woman who married her longtime partner, Margie Nichols, in 2009. Bonnie Nichols filed for divorce in Lancaster County last year, but a judge ruled that the court couldn’t grant a divorce without acknowledging the marriage.

Same-sex marriages began in Iowa in 2009, after the state’s Supreme Court struck down a law that defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Nebraska doesn’t recognize same-sex marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships because of a constitutional amendment that was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2000.

Bonnie Nichols’ attorney, Megan Mikolajczyk, said the U.S. Constitution’s “full faith and credit” clause requires the state to recognize the marriage.

The state attorney general’s office, in a friend-of-the-court brief, argued that allowing the divorce would run afoul of the constitutional amendment.

Granting the divorce “would in effect disenfranchise 70 percent of Nebraska’s voters (who voted for the amendment) and recognize something that hasn’t been recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court itself,” said Assistant Attorney General James Smith.

Several Nebraska Supreme Court justices asked Wednesday about technical and procedural aspects of the case, a possible sign that they could decide without ruling directly on same-sex marriage.

Heineman casts big shadow in NU search

World-Herald News Service

LINCOLN — When Gov. Dave Heineman went public Wednesday with his application to become University of Nebraska president, many other potential candidates likely tossed theirs in the trash.

The term-limited governor launched his campaign with the NU Board of Regents on Tuesday, emailing them a letter on his official letterhead about his intent to seek the university presidency. He followed that with a Wednesday press conference in the governor’s hearing room where he discussed his qualifications.

Big names like Heineman bring big spheres of influence, experts in leadership searches say, and that can dissuade potential candidates who don’t want to go up against a popular politician.

Heineman also comes with strong ties to many regents, with a history of receiving campaign donations or giving endorsements to six of the eight who will make the decision.

“Sometimes the perception of other candidates is that when someone that popular or that big of a name enters the search, they will work their way to at least being a finalist or appointed as president,” said Jamie Ferrare, principal of AGB Search.

►Please see **SEARCH**, page 12

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Scattered storms
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